

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04

ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 STRE-00

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R 121715Z MAR 76
FM USDEL MTN GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1257

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PASS STR FOR INFO

H PASS CODEL

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: MTN ETRD
SUBJECT: UNCTAD MTN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT

1. MTN DEL HAS OBTAINED COPY OF PUBLICATION BY UNDP/UNCTAD
MTN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT ENTITLED "REFERENCE MANUAL
ON THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS", DEC 1975.
(COPY OF REF MANUAL WILL BE HAND CARRIED TO STR BY
GRAEF.) AS IN OTHER PUBLICATIONS BY UNCTAD/MTN PROJECT,
REF MANUAL, IN REVIEWING STATUS OF WORK IN EACH MTN
GROUP, IDENTIFIES POSITIONS TAKEN BY INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY SPOKESMEN.
THIS IS IN CONTRAST TO GATT PROCEDURES OF NOT IDENTIFYING
INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY IN ITS WRITTEN RECORDS. THE REF
MANUAL IS GENERALLY AN ACCURATE ACCOUNT OF DISCUSSIONS WITHIN
THE GROUPS, ALTHOUGH IT OCCASIONALLY MISREPRESENTS VIEWS OF
SOME DELS. IT IS USED BY THE UNCTAD STAFF AS BACKGROUND
MATERIAL FOR THEIR BRIEFINGS ON THE STATUS OF THE MTN, SUCH
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AS THOSE GIVEN IN REGIONAL SEMINARS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

(OFTEN IN CONJUNCTION WITH GATT OFFICIALS). MANUAL IS ALSO GIVEN ON REQUEST TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND IS PARTICULARLY USEFUL TO THE SMALLER COUNTRIES WHO ARE NOT STAFFED TO FOLLOW ALL AREAS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

2. GATT DEPUTY DIRECTOR PATTERSON CALLED BULBERT'S ATTENTION TO IDENTIFICATION OF COUNTRY POSITIONS IN THE UNCTAD REF MANUAL AND SUGGESTED THIS COULD BECOME SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR NEGOTIATORS IN FUTURE.

3. WE UNDERSTAND CANADIAN DEL BROUGHT THIS MATTER TO THE ATTENTION OF THE UNCTAD MTN PROJECT SOME TIME AGO WHEN THEIR POSITION WAS MISQUOTED IN AN UNCTAD/MTN NEWSLETTER. UNCTAD, HOWEVER, HAS CONTINUED TO IDENTIFY COUNTRY POSITIONS. UNCTAD NEWSLETTER ON MTN, FOR EXAMPLE, QUOTES ONLY PUBLICLY AVAILABLE MATERIAL.

4. US MTN DEL WOULD APPRECIATE ANY GUIDANCE THAT WASHINGTON AGENCIES MIGHT HAVE ON THIS SUBJECT, AND WE WOULD HAVE NO RELUCTANCE TO DISCUSS THIS FRANKLY WITH HEAD OF UNCTAD/MTN PROJECT (SHIH). WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT IS A PARTICULAR PROBLEM AT THIS TIME AS THE POSITIONS TAKEN DURING MULTILATERAL MEETINGS ARE WELL KNOWN AMONG DELS IN GENEVA AND THERE WOULD APPEAR TO BE LITTLE DANGER IN INFORMING SMALLER COUNTRIES OF VARIOUS COUNTRY POSITIONS. IN ONE SENSE, THIS PROVIDES A USEFUL EDUCATIONAL AND INFORMATIONAL SERVICE IN KEEPING THESE COUNTRIES INFORMED, ALTHOUGH SOMEWHAT BELATEDLY, OF US POSITIONS ON VARIOUS TRADE MATTERS. THIS IDENTIFICATION OF COUNTRY POSITION COULD, HOWEVER, BECOME A PROBLEM LATER IN THE NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD UNCTAD PARTICIPATE IN SOME FASHION IN BILATERAL OR PLURILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS. WE DO NOT, HOWEVER, ENVISAGE THIS DEVELOPMENT AT THIS TIME AND WOULD, OF COURSE, STRONGLY OPPOSE IT. CULBERT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 12 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition Reason:
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Review Authority: saccheem
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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